

March 3, 1976

puns complimentary of the members of the Legislature. It is given to Senator Warren Swigart with our wholehearted support that he read the same and present the same on the floor.

SPEAKER BURBACH: Is there any further discussion? If not, Senator Bereuter, you may close on the motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR BEREUTER: I would like to speak against the motion, Senator.

SPEAKER BURBACH: The Chair recognizes Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: I withdraw my kill motion. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise, of course, in opposition to the kill motion by Senator Kime, and I would like to present a few facts for Senator Kime, for Senator Nichol, Senator Dworak, excuse me, Dickinson, and for Senator George and to the two friends back here in particular. They are gone, both of them. We have had a quite a few comments thus far about the amount of tax assessment that really would be reduced by this legislation. There would be a reduction in tax assessment possible if we wrote general law to do that. However, equally as important I would say is the psychological incentive we give to the conservation of water in this state by the encouraging of the construction of small dams in this state and for rewarding those that have had enough foresight to try to protect their neighbors from flooding and from soil erosion and from the loss of water, generally. I would remind you that we have one million acre feet of water coming into the state each year. I have emphasized that before, one million acre feet. We have seven million acre feet leaving the state each year. That means there is a lot of water that could be utilized in this state for beneficial purposes. Instead we are making heavy drains upon our ground water. If you lived in an area like Senator Kremer and I represent, you would realize, and Senator Maresh, by all means, Senator Maresh, since he has the greatest ground water reduction in this part of the state, and Senator Lewis has the other area represented which has extreme apparent water losses, if you lived in those areas, you would be concerned about water conservation. If you are Senator George, I hope he is within earshot, or Senator Dickinson, I would think you would be the last people opposed to trying to conserve more water through small structures. If you had more small structures in the Papio watershed, Senators, you wouldn't have quite the dispute you have now with some of the Omahan and Sarpy County Senators. To Senator Nichol, my good friend, I am not trying to hide the ulterior motive. The motive is to conserve water, surface and ground water, by encouraging the construction of small reservoirs across the state by the private landowners. This is particularly important since the current means of assistance to those people is rapidly evaporating. Now as far as requiring the County Assessor, as indicated by Senator Kime, to go out and inspect this land from year to year or uses change from year to year, I think that, too, would be